

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibition of Staphylococci binding to fibrinogen in mammals including humans, by administering a therapeutically effective amount of a fibrinogen binding protein of claim 12 to a mammal in need of such treatment.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A method for passive immunization against Staphylococcal infection, comprising administering to a mammal antibodies against a fibrinogen binding protein of claim 12 in an amount sufficient to provide passive immunization.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A fibrinogen binding protein derived from *S. aureus* having an apparent molecular weight of 60 kDa and that produces fragments having apparent molecular weights of approximately 50, 45, 40 and 30 kDa when digested with V8 protease (40 µg/ml) for one hour on ice.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The fibrinogen binding protein of claim 12 wherein the protein further binds prothrombin.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) A DNA encoding the fibrinogen binding protein of claim 12.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A plasmid or phage comprising the DNA of claim 14.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) A microorganism comprising the DNA of claim 14.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) A microorganism according to claim 16, wherein said microorganism is E. coli.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the protein of claim 12, and a carrier therefor.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 18 49, wherein the carrier is a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in a biological sample comprising immobilizing the sample on a solid carrier; bringing serum containing a known amount of antibodies against the protein according to claim 12 into contact with the immobilized sample; and measuring the obtained binding of the antibodies to the immobilized sample.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting antibodies against the protein according to claim 12, comprising the steps of immobilizing the protein or a polypeptide fragment thereof on a solid carrier; bringing serum susceptible of containing antibodies against the protein into contact with the immobilized protein or polypeptide; and measuring the obtained binding of the antibodies to the immobilized protein or polypeptide.